

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey: PG#72-9-42 Building Date: 1942, 1946

Building Name: Fairmount Heights Municipal Center

Location: 717 60th Place, Fairmount Heights, Maryland

. Public/Government/Occupied/Fair/Accessible

Description:

The Fairmount Heights Municipal Center is a two-part building, constructed by local builders in the 1940s. The main block is two-and-one-half stories, and front-gabled, with a two-story flat-roof addition extending to the south; the principal west entrance fronts on 60th Place. The main block was two bays by four, with a wide garage door in the first bay of the principal west facade; this door has been partially filled in, and the closed inset space is now lighted by a window. The west gable front of the building was constructed of brick and the long sides of concrete block. At the west end of the ridge still stands a small front-gabled belfry, which housed the fire bell. In 1946, a two-story south wing, two stories high with flat roof, two bays by two; this addition was further enlarged by a two-story, flat-roof, two-bay addition to the rear. Entrance to the south addition was through a double door of wood in the first bay of the west front, now replaced by modern heavy glass doors. In the 1960s, the sides and rear, as well as the upper stories of the west front of the building, were covered with stucco painted white. A formstone veneer was applied to the first story of the west front, and the north and south front corners. Formstone surrounds were also applied around the windows.

Significance:

The Fairmount Heights Municipal Center, constructed in the 1940s is a familiar landmark in the Town of Fairmount Heights. It was constructed originally as a Fire Hall, and later served as health clinic, library, general meeting space, and perhaps most importantly, as the Town Hall. The lots on which it stands were purchased by the Town between 1939 and 1941, and two citizens undertook to erect a building to serve both as a fire house and a meeting place. The main block was completed and in use by 1942; a fire engine was purchased and stored in the garage space on the first story, and the second story was used as the Town's principal meeting space. In 1946, the two-story wing was built onto the south wall of the main block, providing two more large rooms and a connecting stairway between the two parts of the building. The space used as offices and as public library space. In the late 1960s the building was stuccoed and partially covered with a veneer of Formstone. Although considerably changed from its original appearance, the Municipal Center is still a community landmark.

Acreage: 11500 sq. ft.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - AD 1930 - Present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Fire Hall, Library, Town Hall

Design Source: unknown

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fairmount Heights Municipal Center

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 717 60th Place ☐ not for publication

city, town Fairmount Heights ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mayor and Council, Town of Fairmount Heights

street & number 719 60th Place telephone no.: 301-925-8585

city, town Fairmount Heights state and zip code MD 20743

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 616

street & number 14735 Main Street folio 320,321

city, town Upper Marlboro state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#72-9-42

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Fairmount Heights Municipal Center is a two-part building, constructed by local builders in the 1940s. The main block is two-and-one-half stories, and front-gabled, with a two-story flat-roof addition extending to the south; the principal west entrance fronts on 60th Place. The building was constructed of brick and concrete block, and more recently stuccoed and partially covered with a veneer of Formstone. There are several later additions to the rear of both sections.

The main block (A) of the building was two bays by four, and was constructed as a firehouse in 1942; it is two-and-one-half stories high, front-gabled, and built of brick and concrete block. The principal west gable front is two bays wide. Originally there was a wide garage door in the first (north) bay, for the accommodation of the fire engine, and a regular door (with four-pane window over three horizontal wood panels) in the second bay; each was surmounted by a wide lintel painted white. The garage door has been partially filled in, and the closed inset space is now lighted by a 6/6 double hung sash window, shorter and wider than the original windows of the building. The second story was lighted in this west gable front by two 6/6 double hung wood sash windows painted white; centered between the two windows was a plaque (of the same size as the windows) with the legend "Fairmount Heights Maryland". Below the plaque, a horizontal sign read VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT. Today the space which once framed the plaque is filled by a circular sign which reads "Fairmount Heights Maryland Erected 1942", beneath which is a small rectangular sign which reads "Chartered 1935". The space is framed, as are the other windows, by a formstone surround.

This original building (A) measured 32 by 50 feet. The long sides of the building were lighted by four 6/6 double hung wood sash windows on the second story and three small single-sash windows on the first; these windows on the south side are now covered by the south addition. The west gable front of the building was built of brick, laid in 6/1 common bond; a six-section lunette window still lights the loft level. The long side elevations of the building were built of concrete block, and a belt course made a line of demarcation between the first and second stories. At the west (front) end of the ridge still stands a small front-gabled belfry, supported by wood cross-braces and posts, which housed the fire bell.

By 1946, a two-story south wing (B) had been built onto the south elevation of the main block. This addition was two stories high with flat roof, two bays by two (25 by 28 feet) and built of concrete block with west facade of brick. This addition was further enlarged, (within

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Description (continued)

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a few years and certainly by 1954) by a two-story, flat-roof, two-bay (25 by 26 foot) addition to the rear (C). Entrance to the south addition was through a double door in the first (north) bay of the west front; each leaf of this double door had four-pane upper glazing. The present doors, of modern heavy glass, have replaced the original wooden doors in the same location. Windows in the south wing were 6/6 double hung wood sash. Although the entire enlarged south wing is now a single 25 by 54 foot unit, one can distinguish the line of demarcation between the earlier front two-bay section and the slightly later rear two-bay section: the roof of the rear section is slightly (circa 5 inches) lower than that of the front, and the blocks used to construct the rear section are longer and narrower than those used to construct the earlier front section. The windows which light the south elevation of the rear section are arranged side-by-side on both first and second stories.

In the late 1960s, the sides and rear, as well as the upper stories of the west front of the building, were covered with stucco painted white. A formstone veneer was applied to the first story of the west front and the north and south front corners up to the eaves, creating the impression of cornerposts. Formstone surrounds were also applied around the windows of the front and sides of the building.

There are several small additions attached to the rear of both main sections of the building. To the rear (east) of the original (1942) main block is a two-story addition, one bay by three, with a very shallow pitched roof (D); it is 12 by 32 feet, and extends the entire width (32 feet) of the main block. One small single-sash window lights the first story north elevation of this addition. An interior brick chimney rises at the northwest corner. The rear (west) elevation of the addition is lighted by three single-sash windows on the second story, and one on the first; there are two doors leading into the ground floor of this west elevation, the southerly one being accessible by a partial flight of steps, at a slightly higher level.

To the rear (west) of the south wing (described above) is a shallow one-story shed-roof addition, approximately 8 by 22 feet (E). Its rear elevation is unfenestrated, but there is a door in its south elevation.

The principal entrance (the double door in the west facade of the south addition) leads into a shallow stairhall; a two-run open metal staircase rises along the north wall of this stairhall, turns 90 degrees at a landing, turns again and rises to the second story. From this stairhall, a hallway leads north into the original firehouse space, the south and east parts of which have been converted into work rooms. Behind (to the east of) the large engine space, in the east addition (D), is the furnace room. The second story of the original main block

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Description (continued)

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(A) consists of one large meeting room, lighted by the two windows of the west facade, and the four windows of the north elevation. The original molded surrounds of the windows survive, the floor is covered with linoleum, and a dropped ceiling with modern lighting has been installed. (The two westerly windows of the original south elevation have been blocked by the construction of the south addition, while the two easterly windows open onto a narrow alleyway between the main block (A) and the rear section (C) of the south addition.) There are several small spaces behind the large meeting room, on the second story of the rear addition (D). The south addition (B and C) consists of several small office spaces on the first story, and a meeting room and rear office space on the second story.

This complex building stands on lots 15-17 of Block H of the original 1900 subdivision of Fairmount Heights. In the 1960s and 1970s, the Town of Fairmount Heights acquired six lots to the north of the Municipal Building, and had a one-story prefabricated building and a large garage erected there. The area between the Municipal Center and these later structures is now devoted to parking.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	Black history	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1942,1946

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☒ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Fairmount Heights Municipal Center, constructed in the 1940s of brick and concrete block, is a familiar landmark in the Town of Fairmount Heights. It was constructed originally as a Fire Hall, and later served as health clinic, library, general meeting space and, perhaps most importantly, as the Town Hall.

Four lots on Addison Avenue (now 60th Place) were purchased by the Mayor and Council of Fairmount Heights between late 1939 and early 1941, apparently with the intent of constructing on them a dog pound. After the United States entered World War II, it was decided to devote this location principally to civil defense. A Civil Defense Council was appointed, consisting of local residents James A. Campbell, Patrick Diggs and Charles L. Morris, Jr. This Council began to organize firefighters, first aid units and auxiliary police, but all of these groups found that they needed a place to meet. Patrick Diggs and Clifton Jones offered to erect a building on the ground recently purchased by the town, thus providing a building which could serve as a fire house as well as a meeting place. The main (northwestmost) block of the building was completed and in use by 1942.¹ A fire truck was purchased (the first chemical fire engine had been purchased for the Town in 1917), and the principal ground floor space of the new building was used to store it; above the fire engine garage was a large meeting room.

One of the results of the Civil Defense work was the establishment in the Fire House of a health clinic. One doctor and one nurse were provided by the County, and community volunteers worked as nurses' helpers. The clinic continued to operate in this building until it moved into a small prefabricated structure erected on the adjoining lots to the north.²

In 1943, James A. Campbell was elected Mayor of Fairmount Heights; two of the Councilmen elected in that year were the other two members of

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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the original Civil Defense Council, Patrick Diggs and Charles L. Morris, Jr. Within a few years, improvements and enlargements were undertaken on the Fire Hall. In 1944 a heating plant was installed in the building; the next year it was decided to enlarge the building so that it could serve as a municipal office building. In 1946 the two-story wing was built onto the south wall of the building, providing two more large rooms, and a connecting stairway between the two parts of the building. Within a few years, the Volunteer Fire Department had moved out of the building, and offices were created for the Mayor and Council, the Town Clerk, treasurer, Health Department and Police Department. The large space above the fire engine garage continued to be used as the Town's principal meeting room.³

In 1948, a library was established in the second-story room of the south addition; bookshelves were installed along all four walls, and large library tables were set up in the center of the room. In 1954, an addition was constructed to the east of this room, enlarging the library space. The library was maintained in this location until June 1959, when it was moved to rented space on Addison Road.⁴

In the late 1960s, the side and rear exterior walls, as well as the upper stories of the west front of the building, were covered with stucco, and a formstone veneer was applied to the first story of the west front, as well as in some decorative places. It was at about this time that the clinic moved out of the building, into the prefabricated building to the north.

In recent years, the clinic moved out of the prefabricated structure, and the offices of the Mayor and Town officers were moved into that building. The large meeting room in the oldest part of the Municipal Center has continued to be used for Town Council meetings, and some of the downstairs rooms are still in use for youth recreational programs. Although considerably changed from its original appearance and purpose, the Fairmount Heights Municipal Center building is still a noticeable landmark, especially important to the Town because its construction was a real community effort.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

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1. Yearbook of the Town of Fairmount Heights, Maryland, 1946; Prince George's County Deeds #616:320, 321.
2. Year Book of the Town of Fairmount Heights, Maryland, 1946; conversation with Mrs. Margaret Brooks.
3. Year Book of the Town of Fairmount Heights, Maryland, 1946.
4. Notes on the history of the Prince George's County library system, and photographs from the historical photo collection, Fairmount Heights Library Branch.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#72-9-42

See notes, Item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 11500 sq.ft.

TAX MAP #66, Block H, lots 15-18

Quadrangle name Washington East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research/Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section, MNCPPC date February 1992

street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive telephone 301-952-3521

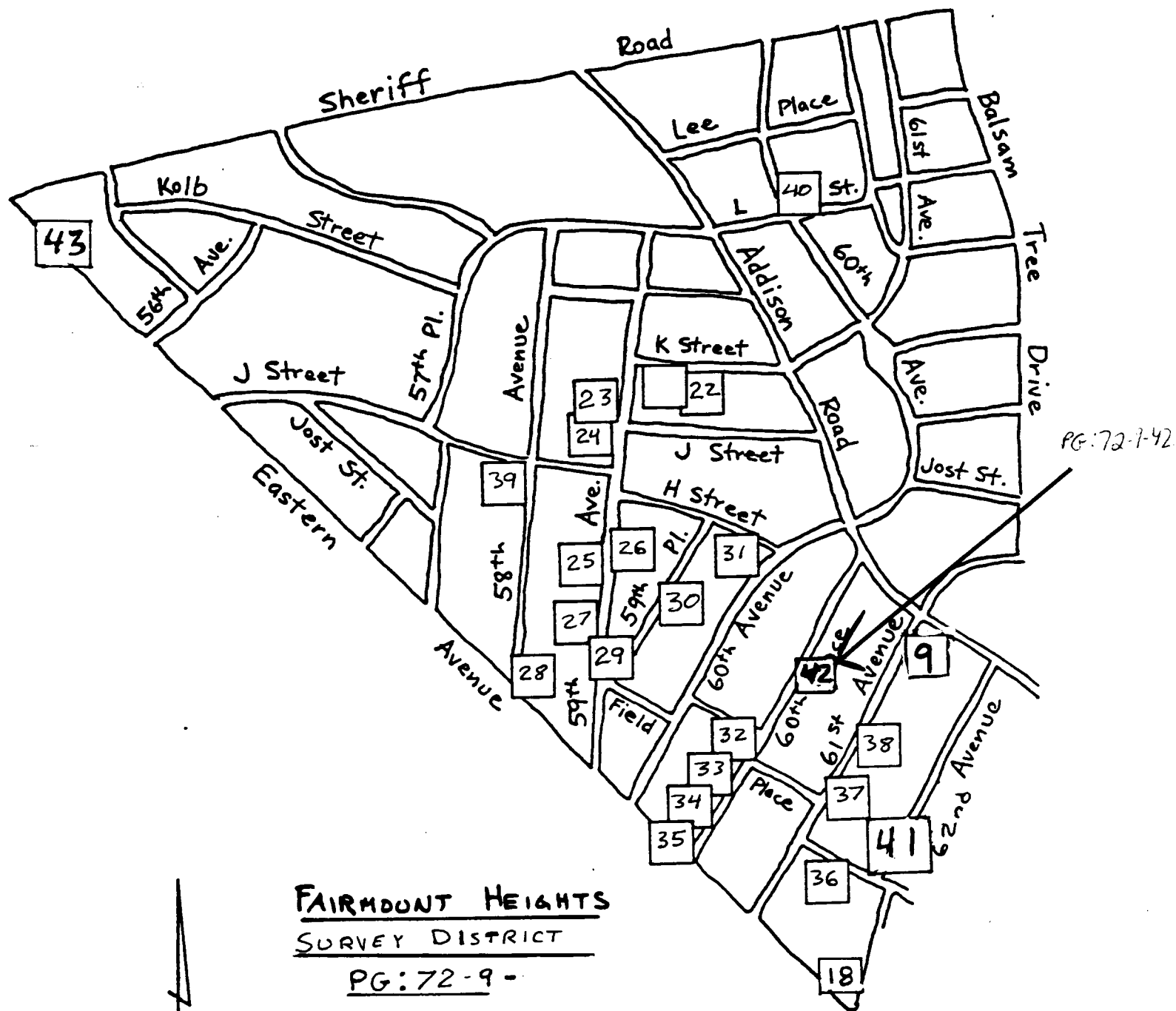
city or town Upper Marlboro state MD 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Town of Fairmount Heights



2-17

1-1



PG 72-9-42



PG# 72-9-42

Fairmount Heights Municipal Center

Fairmount Heights

Prince George's County

Washington East Quadrangle



Sacramento Heights Municipal Center
Prince George's Co. MD.

Susan H. Pearce

December 1991

West facade



Sacramento Heights Municipal Center
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan H. Prael
December 1991
Council Meeting Room



P6 #72-9-42

Sacramento Heights Municipal Center
Prince George's Co. MD
Susan H. Pearl
December 1991
York elevation



Sacramento Heights Municipal Center

Prince George's Co. MD.

Lissa H. Pearl

December 1991

East elevation



Lackmont Heights

Municipal Center

Prince George's Co. MD

Susan L. Peas

December 1991

Interim Place